**Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, September 21, 2019 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Columbia Room at Vancouver Community Library | 901 C St, Vancouver, WA 98660

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

*Present:* Acting Chair/1st Vice Chair Lisa Dickinson, 2nd Vice Chair Nam Nguyen, Commissioner Carrie Huie-Pascua, Commissioner Lori Wada, Commissioner Tam Dinh, Commissioner Mohan Gurung, Commissioner Ekkarath Sisavatdy, Commissioner Sam Cho, Commissioner Sina Sam (late), Commissioner Helen Christensen, Commissioner Lydia Faitalia

*Absent:* Commissioner Lalita Uppala (unexcused)

*Staff:* Executive Director Toshiko Grace Hasegawa, Project Manager Rosa Mai

*Quorum* was reached at 10:00 a.m.

1. **Welcome, Introductions**

Majority Floor Leader Representative Monica Stonier provided welcome remarks as the elected representative for the area. She provided highlights from the 2019 legislative session, specifically mentioning the ongoing work towards achieving equity and promoting diversity.

Van Port history lesson—now the home of Portland State University—used to be a very segregated part of Portland, and is comparable to Hurricane Katrina. A rail/dam broke, and flooded many homes in the area. Many Japanese-Americans were living there at the time, but because they were undocumented, there aren’t records of just how many were affected by the flood.

She is the first member of color State Representative from Clark County. CAPAA works towards inclusivity and diversity, and she is happy to serve. Patrick’s Hawaiian Café’s (today’s lunch caterer) owner was her neighbor.

1. **Approval of the Agenda***.*

Motion to approve made at 10:08 a.m. by 2st Vice Chair Nam Nguyen. Seconded by Commr. Wada. *Motion passed unanimously.*

1. **Approval of the Minutes**

Motion to approve made at 10:08 a.m. by Commr. Wada. Seconded by Commr. Gurung. *Motion passed unanimously.*

1. **Committee Roundtable Reports**

Acting Chair Dickinson emphasizes importance of Commission meetings, especially with new Commissioners in attendance.

*Civil Rights & Immigration Committee: Presented by Commr. Sam*

* Committee meets to discuss book use in prisons, ICE targeting, and policies to improve the lives of prisoners
* Working on legislation, the most recent one being police accountability. The work of the Deadly Force task force has been particularly helpful with the AAPI communities affected There was a report from the City of Seattle that helped community conversations and building trust that has been fraying over the last couple of years.
* SB 5433 – expanding postsecondary education in DOC facilities for individuals who have ICE holds, sets the example for the whole nation for protecting those who are targeted for deportation.
* SB 5290 – eliminating the use of valid court orders for youth incarceration, a priority for Formerly Incarcerated Group Healing Together (FIGHT),prevents the criminalization of youth who are truant or engage in non-criminal activities, and diverts them instead of incarcerates them.
* Public health forum in Spokane coming up, along with the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Mental health and education experts in the area are coming to talk about how immigration and accepting immigration improves public health.
* Commr. Huie-Pascua: Sept. 25th, there is a community forum in Yakima that is a part of the I-940 public forums on investigations into the use of deadly force by police. Also adds that ICE flights are coming into Yakima, even if they’re banned from other counties. The detainees are in shackles on those flights, and the immigrant community is concerned of the increased presence of ICE and worries about the increased.

*Economic Development Committee: Presented by Commr. Cho*

* The committee was not able to meet between the last meeting and today.
* I-1000 and R88: Reverts the ban so that official agencies can take race, national origin, sex, disability, etc. into the consideration for public contracts. There is a lot of buzz on this issue and a lot of confusion—this Referendum will not allow quotas or preferential treatment.
* Commr. Dinh: as Although we must be neutral, inaction is in some ways taking a side.
* Acting Chair Dickinson: Our communities are split on the issue.
* ED Hasegawa: Point of Information – because we are a state agency, we cannot take a stance or use state time or resources towards a political campaign, but we can have a neutral educational campaign.
* Acting Chair Dickinson: To clarify, we can support/oppose legislation, but not campaigns, initiatives, and referenda, correct?
* ED Hasegawa: Correct.
* Commr. Dinh: We can support the philosophy, separate from the initiative.

ACTION: Economic Development Committee may suggest steps for a neutral educational campaign around R88 to empower voting community members to make the choice they believe is best.

*Education Committee: Presented by Commr. Sisavatdy*

* The committee convened yesterday for introductions and to set their goals.
* Working towards maintaining and pushing ethnic studies curriculum
* Expanding Guided Pathways
* Focusing on supporting the development and inclusion of more high school counselors who have the responsibility of providing information for high school students of programs—emphasis on API school counselors.

*Health and Human Services Committee: Presented by Commr. Huie Pascua*

* Washington Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention is looking to creating a tool to coordinate public health response for public health agencies on how to respond to and prepare for suicide prevention. The interagency health disparities council is looking to hire a staff person to support the initiatives provided by the group.
* CAPAA and the National Alliance for Mental Illness co-hosted a local community forum around police education and training with the goal of raising awareness of implicit bias and how it can be incorporated in the curriculum.

*Nominations Committee:*

Newly appointed Commissioners were asked to make formal introductions to the group:

Commr. Christensen has a background in social work, in particular, single parents in need of state assistance to get back on their feet and support their family. She went on to work on divisional rehabilitation, helping individuals with disabilities get a job through counseling and guidance. In addition to physical limitations, their mental health is affected by the stress of the situation. She contracted Polio as a child and is a part of a support group in Washington, every month on the third Saturday (which she will now miss occasionally today for this board meeting). Provides support and suggestions to make life just a little bit easier. “This is where I am and where I belong until I retire.” She says she will be in Yakima, and will connect with Commr. Huie-Pascua to talk about the Health & HS committee.

Commr. Faitalia worked in California on connecting pipelines from community colleges to university, worked with native populations. Does a lot of work on immigration, native rights, and education. She identifies as indigenous to the South Pacific. Her parents were undocumented, she’s first-generation, which is why she is passionate to about immigration rights.

1. **Executive Director’s Report**

E.D. Hasegawa made a verbal presentation of her written report, which was provided to Commissioners as a printed hand-out.

Commr. Cho asks how much money we’re requesting for the Decision Package.

ACTION: E.D. Hasegawa to provide information via e-mail.

Commr. Dinh asks how Commissioners can help advocate for the two staffers requested in the Decision Package. Suggests an organizational chart to show the relationship between staff, Commissioners, and community reps serving on workgroups on behalf of CAPAA.

Commr. Gurung asks how we plan to address undocumented community’s fears surrounding the Census being used against them. E.D. Hasegawa mentioned Cherry Cayabyab from Kaya Strategik will address this later in the agenda.

Commr. Wada commends getting 2 new staffers, as it would help the Commission make their goals a reality. She also comments that we should have more of a presence in local governments and county governments to help make them recognize us. Expressed hopes that a furnished letter of appointment could be provided to each county of the CAPAA Commissioners.

Commr. Gurung asks how the Needs Assessment money from 2018-2019 is applied.

ED Hasegawa clarified that the Census 2020 Outreach targeting communities in Whitman, Clark, and Thurston Counties is funded through the Needs Assessment. Census 2020 Outreach is the second phase of the needs assessment work, which is being conducted in collaboration with Kaya Strategik and APIC-WA.

Acting Chair Dickinson asks that Rosa Mai sends a monthly link to the activity report Commissioners so they have constant access to it. She adds that Commissioners who have trouble with accessing the Google Doc or who think the Google link cannot encompass their work could possibly send in more detailed reports. She commends the staff for their work on communications, especially regarding videos.

Commr. Faitalia mentions that the Burke Museum at UW has volunteered their space for us to conduct meetings, such as Census meetings.

1. **Board Business**

*Elections*

Regarding the positions of Chair, 1st Vice Chair, & 2nd Vice Chair. Acting Chair Dickinson presiding.

**For the position of Chair**

* 1st call for nominations: Commr. Wada nominates Acting Chair Dickinson.
* Commr. Huie-Pascua seconds.
* Acting Chair Dickinson accepts the nomination.

2nd call for nominations – none

1 minute speech from candidate: It is her 9th year on CAPAA, and she is the ranking member of CAPAA. She has enjoyed CAPAA’s many transitions and changes. Being from the Eastside, she feels that the Commission now reflects our communities statewide, which it hasn’t always done. She works to elevate the voices of AAPIs in professions and areas where they typically are not. Her passion is to ensure AAPIs are seen, present, and heard.

Acting Chair Dickinson calls the question. Lisa Dickinson is elected Chair of the Commission by a unanimous vote of the Board of Commissioners.

**For the position of 1st VC**

1st call for nominations:

* Commr. Wada nominates 2nd Vice Chair Nguyen.
* Commr. Gurung seconds.
* 2nd Vice Chair Nguyen accepts the nomination.

2nd call for nominations – none

1 minute speech from candidate: The Commission has helped his career a lot, and he wants to give back to the Commission as much as possible. He and Chair Dickinson work very well together.

Chair Dickinson calls the question. Nam Nguyen is elected 1st Vice Chair of the Commission by a unanimous vote of the Board of Commissioners.

**For the position of 2nd Vice Chair**

1st call for nominations:

* Commr. Dinh nominates Commr. Wada.
* Commr. Gurung seconds.
* Commr. Wada accepts the nomination.

An audience member comments and would like to recommend Commr. Faitalia for 2nd Vice Chair position. Chair Dickinson responds that only appointed Commissioners can make nominations.

2nd call for nominations:

* Commr. Sisavatdy nominates Commr. Gurung.
* Commr. Huie-Pascua seconds.
* Commr. Gurung declines.

3rd call for nominations:

* Commr. Faitalia nominates herself.
* Nomination is seconded by Commr. Sam.

Chair Dickinson calls the question. Commr. Wada receives 7 votes. Commr. Faitalia receives 3 votes. Lori Wada is elected 2nd Vice Chair of the Commission by a majority vote of the board of Commissioners.

*WAC Edits*

Chair Dickinson brings up the proposed changes to the agency rules around the days the Commission must meet so that the Commission may have more flexibility to ensure attendance by all Commissioners.

Commr. Dinh asks if we can remove the Saturday requirement as well, so that we can have more flexibility. Chair Dickinson replies that the public notice must be as specific as possible, so changing it away from “third Saturday of Jan/March/June/Sept/Nov” to just the Saturday of those months was a good medium.

Commr. Cho asks if this changes the attendance policy. Chair Dickinson says that it does not. ED Hasegawa clarifies that the policy of 2 unexcused absences or three excused absences within a year is interpreted to mean a rolling period of 12 months.

Commr. Cho moves to accept the changes to the WAC. Commr. Sisavatdy seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

1. **Census 2020 Needs Assessment Presentation**

Cherry Cayabyab of KAYA Strategik speaks on the work being done for the Needs Assessment and the Get Out the Count efforts. Mentions successful Thurston County meeting two days ago, and meeting happening later this afternoon here in Clark County. Mentions previous work in community, including InterIM CDA, previous Census, and various non-profits in the Seattle area. Gives example of Linh Ngo reaching out to Vietnamese community for 2010 Census that was so successful that King County was mandated to provide Vietnamese election materials, feeding into further political participation from the Viet community and leading to the election of the first Vietnamese state Representative and Senator.

Regarding what we’re working on with CAPAA, we can see the importance of counting AAPIs, who make up 1/10 or 1/15 or 1/20 in each county. We’re putting together a complete count work plan to address the needs and resources of various communities, to the point of narrowing down to certain streets, schools, cultural and social centers that have clusters of AAPI people.

In answer to Commr. Gurung’s prior inquiry, Cherry acknowledges that the issue of personal security and security of personal data is important, and we take this seriously. Steps have been built into the framework to ensure the data may not be used maliciously to endanger anyone.

2nd VC Wada asks how Cherry plans to help undocumented populations who are afraid of their data being taken advantage of. Cherry responds that there are many players involved—WA Census Alliance, Census Bureau, and nonprofit partners. Census forms and data are federally protected by law to be used in confidence only by the Department of Commerce. It is illegal to use it for any reason other than general data. With further questions pushing this issue from Chair Dickinson, Cherry adds that this is only a portion. We also need to use a trusted messenger model, train the trainers in order to make sure that our communities are educated in order to connect and encourage people to participate in the process.

E.D. Hasegawa reiterates that the trusted messenger model is being shopped around as a best practice, but local governments and groups need to adopt it. CAPAA is not usurping any efforts—it must be community led. On the front end, as we’re having our community work plan development meetings, we’re working this issue and pushing Thurston, Whitman, and Clark counties to adopt the model to help overcome some of those barriers. It has to be tailored to who we’re talking to.

Commr. Dinh asks what role the Commissioners play into this trusted messenger model. Do we play in delivering this message? This is a conversation for us to have in the next steps following the production of Kaya’s Report.

ACTION: Include Census 2020 Kaya Strategik Report on November meeting agenda.

Cherry mentions that the trusted messenger model is as trusted and old as time. Having someone we trust send us information, encouraging, etc. increases turnout. WA Census Alliance has been training trainers in the community who are de facto trusted messengers, though the name has only been adopted recently. It is a resource that we will highlight. The OFM was able to secure, through advocacy from many community members, $15mill for Census work from the state, as the federal level is severely underfunding it. We’re coordinating closely with ACRS and APIC to use this money well. Also mentions King County funding opportunities and Philanthropy NW.

Commr. Gurung emphasizes importance of the Census, which only comes around every 10 years. It would help plan for health, education, disasters… In order to ensure a full count, how can we make sure that people who are undocumented are included? We need to go to them to make sure they’re ready to participate. There’s $2800/person allocated to our community, but we need to make sure that that’s put to good use.

Cherry acknowledges this, and agrees that the undocumented community will be the most difficult to reach. The messaging must be framed well. The best practice is usually someone like a mother, a friend, a pastor—someone who makes these people feel safe. This is the trusted messenger model. We also mentioned using cultural and social centers like churches, schools, etc. as we did 10 years ago. Having spaces where people feel safe and using services they already use to get the message out also help.

Commr. Sam mentions the work of Asians Advancing Justice at the national level who can provide a national framework, support.

Commr. Sisavatdy mentions the elders in the community and the aging population. How do we reach them, ensure they’re counted?

Cherry responds that if someone does not fill out the online form, a paper copy will be sent to their home. Helping people one-on-one also raises the likelihood that they fill out the Census form. Reminding people to submit it is incredibly important but often gets missed.

Commr. Huie-Pascua wants to respond to Commr. Dinh’s question on what role Commissioners have. Mentions what Yakima-Yakama have been doing, as she’s been active in the local coalition. Commissioners should look into local coalitions—the tribal nations, homeless communities, League of Women Voters, etc. They’re working on hiring outreach workers for historically undercounted communities. While I’m not the one knocking on doors, I’ll make sure that our local communities and coalitions know what resources are available around the state.

Cherry says in closing that it’s going to be very take off and run, as it’s just around the corner. There will be a lot of media, articles about Census going around soon, especially given how much WA State has invested in it. It is great to work with CAPAA and local communities on this get out the count plan.

E.D. Hasegawa says that, as the timeline goes, we will concluding our public forums by Sept. and we are hoping to have structured strategic plans by the end of October to help local communities and advocates for their work in January. It is a living document.

1. **DOL Real ID Discussion**

Sandra Najera and Steve Padilla give a presentation on Real ID and resources available, field strategy. Congress passed the Real ID Act in 2005 in response to the 9/11 attacks for national security, pushing states to adopt these new standards. It affects access to some places controlled by the federal government, such as airports, border crossings, and military facilities.

E.D. Hasegawa would like to know what DOL is doing specifically to safeguard people’s identity and safety, awareness of ways we can be supportive. All Commissioners are familiar with Real ID, given the presentation from DOL in a previous board meeting. The purpose of this presentation was intended to receive an update regarding DOL’s activities to ensure data protection, as public trust relates to REAL ID. Commr. Dinh agrees, and adds that we’ve heard community members saying that they are worried about the history of information not being protected. Are there additional safeguards, what is our role as advocates, and what will the DOL do?

Sandra replies that through the marking saying “federal limits apply” is applicable regardless of citizenship status and cannot be used by law enforcement, ICE, etc. to determine status. Everyone can have a standard driver’s license; no one has to get an enhanced driver’s license. It is a choice because there are a number of documents that are Real ID compliant if you need to travel by air. If you have no plans to travel by air, it will not impact you.

1st Vice Chair Nguyen: if I were to do a public records request on all individuals who have a “federal limits apply” on their license, do you have to turn the information over?

Sandra replies no, that there are 3-tiered reviews for requests for information if it is suspected to be immigration related: DOL staff member, then DOL manager, then the governor’s office. If it is determined to be unrelated to immigration, then it can be released, but SSN, mother’s maiden name, birthplace, whether you’re a twin/triplet, testing information are redacted. When asked by Commr. Cho & 1st Vice Chair Nguyen, she says photo and address are not redacted.

Chair Dickinson worries about the photo and address in relation to public records request.

Sandra cannot confirm if the public requests does or does not redact photo and address.

1st Vice Chair Nguyen asks what exemptions we can use to keep this information safe from exploitation.

Commr. Dinh mentions that this is not about the presenters, but this is just concerns we have about the system that our communities have, their frustrations and their fears. It is helpful to know what is being redacted, what has been before, what is the not changing so we know what to advocate for in the future. People need to go through many layers if they’re immigrants, and our role as CAPAA is to ensure that people in our communities will be safe without compromising national security.

Sandra says that Steve and their team have done outreach work in the community, and there’s particular concern among people about that marking, and what it would mean if they’re pulled over by law enforcement; if people can get a license; if people can get a passport; and if their information will be released.

Commr. Dinh: is it codified, or can we do something about it?

Sandra says she is not equipped to answer those questions—they might be more fit for someone from the public records division. DOL was under the impression that this was an informative session on what Real ID was, which is why she focused on it in the presentation. CAPAA had received the presentation beforehand.

Chair Dickinson: since DOL is a state agency, we also want to know what we can do and how to partner with you to help you.

E.D. Hasegawa: DOL is our sister agency and we want to do everything in our power to assist you. We have a familiarity with Real ID. We also know that there are civil rights concerns with our community related to the data breach with DOL last year. We affirmatively mentioned our interest in privacy protection in our communications prior to this presentation. This is a forum where it’s not just you coming to us with information, it’s also us asking questions, providing feedback and sparking authentic dialogue for things to follow up on to ensure that we are held accountable to the people we are meant to serve. We’re happy to send the notes and questions to you and people who you see fit to send it to.

Commr. Cho: I appreciate the message that the message that no one MUST get the real ID is very helpful, but it would also be helpful to know what alternatives to Real ID exist.

Sandra: TSA emphasizes the star on the license during their campaign on Real ID. Because of that, people are asking to get a new document, but that’s not the case. People think they won’t be able to fly. Our focus is on underrepresented communities and people who are undocumented. Your passports, foreign and domestic, are acceptable. Your permanent resident card is acceptable documentation (e.g. employment authorization). Wapato has large Native American community, and the tribal ID card is acceptable documentation. The enhanced driver’s license costs more than the regular license, and we acknowledge that that’s a barrier. The only documents that are changing are drivers’ licenses and state ID cards. Undocumented individuals have limited options, and we’re doing a presentation on Real ID followed up by the Mexican consulate doing a presentation on getting a passport and expediting that process. They are one of our partners and we’ve been going along to their presentations and sharing our resources and documents. There’s a lot of fear out there and we want to address it.

Commr. Faitalia: How long have you been doing outreach, and how do we get you to come to our community to speak to them and answer questions like the ones today?

Sandra: we started around January this year

Commr. Faitalia: About how many of the people you’ve been speaking to are AAPI? To give us a ballpark idea.

Sandra: TDW Consultants have been helping us with outreach efforts like tabling.

Commr. Faitalia: And have they voiced their concerns like what we brought up today?

Sandra: Yes. That’s the work our consultants have been doing even before we came in.

Commr. Faitalia: If you’re hearing concerns, then why not have the data person and privacy protection come in today?

Sandra: The questions asked today are very specific. When we were hiring for these positions, we weren’t asking for a bilingual Spanish speaker, though we did say bilingual preferred. We wish we could hire someone from every community.

Commr. Faitalia: Because when we said underrepresented communities, underrepresented AAPI communities, we need to make sure they get the answers and resources they need.

Commr. Dinh: The messaging seems to have changed a bit for Real ID. Originally, it was that everyone has to do this. Now, WA State recognizes that the federal government wants us to do this, and we have an option that complies federal standards and state standards. Now messaging recognizes that we can provide alternatives (tribe cards, passport, etc.), recognizes the need to accommodate people who aren’t comfortable with this.

Sandra: Some states require that all people need to comply, but Washington State is not one of them.

E.D. Hasegawa: Thank you so much for coming today. We are happy to have you here and presenting your information to us. Our messaging and concerns around Real ID has been consistent, which is around data privacy and protection of individuals.

Sandra: Thank you for inviting us and we will be sure to have the experts and information necessary to answer your questions in the future.

1. **Public Comment:**

* Thank you for the time earlier for letting me speak and have equity in this space. It is something I’m very passionate about, making sure that we have equity in state and federal spaces.
* Non-profit covering local areas. Last week went to organizations and dropped off 10 boxes of chopsticks. Our goal is to bring exposure in order to help community. The website is bada.dt (?). Guests of 2nd Vice Chair Wada. They have a chopstick manufacturing company, and they support people—children—from Cambodia.
* E.D. Hasegawa asks public, as we have more time, if there’s a way that CAPAA can support these individuals and groups.
* Commr. Sam mentions that there are voter registration materials in various languages by the door.
* Commr. Dinh reiterates what E.D. Hasegawa said—the E.D. would be happy to connect them with various Commissioners.
* E.D. Hasegawa: CAPAA also does sponsorships, and is happy to work and coordinate with the CBOs

1. **For the Good of the Order**

Commr. Dinh: I was awarded a community health grant, and I will email you about the $10k stipend so that we can reduce financial barriers for grad nurses, social workers, mental health professionals, occupational therapists, etc. The grant is for 3 years, trains 70 individuals in their field and substance use disorders. It is focused on Clark and Mason counties (have the highest rates of substance use overdose), and AAPI and native communities, and the youth, who have higher proportions of overdose issues.

Commr. Sisavatdy: CAPAA is involved in Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund. ACRS is a partner. Once we hit the ground running, we will let you know because we would love to have Commissioners help and involvement.

Rosa: Please make sure you can access your official CAPAA emails.

E.D. Hasegawa: We’d be remiss not to acknowledge the Commissioners who have answered the call for public service, who not only decided to run for office, but won in their respective primary elections. Congratulations, Commissioners Dinh and Cho!

1. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made at 1:34 PM by Commr. Huie-Pascua. Motion seconded by Commr. Faitalia. *Motion passed unanimously.*